

VCM UPDATE

Issue 4 - June 2019



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A Word from Pastor Joy

Greetings Friends in Christ!

We are in the season of Pentecost and we rejoice in the gift of God's Spirit poured out upon all those who walk with Christ. God's Spirit enlivens and empowers us, gives guidance, courage, strength, and peace. How deeply we need these gifts and support. We are in a time of great flux. The Vital Church Initiative challenges us to continue to think differently, to ask bigger questions, to take nothing for granted.

We are in the implementation phase of our Ministry Plan. We are trying out new ways of being church, while preserving what we value most. We are learning more about our neighbors and imagining who we might reach with good news and helping hands that we are not reaching now. Prayerfully we are opening ourselves, personally and collectively, so that the Spirit may kindle in us new passions and energies.

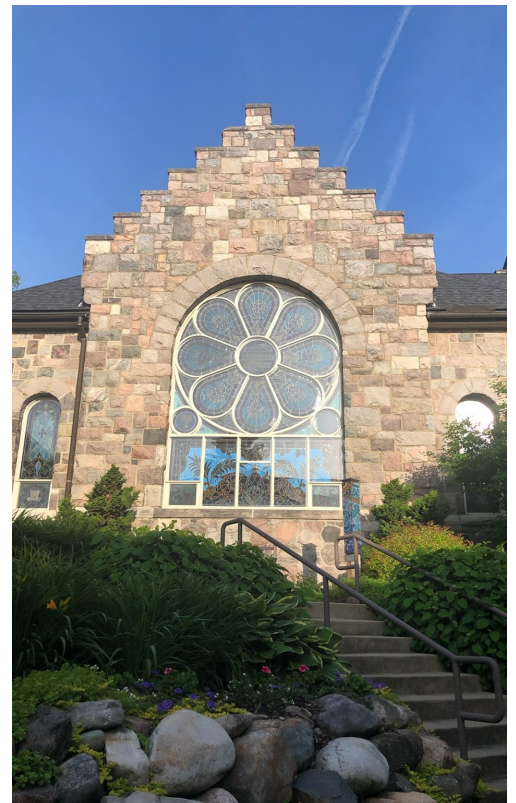
So, too, it is clear that things are changing in our denomination. The current structures of The United Methodist Church, as defined by our Book of Discipline, no longer allow for the diverse, contextual expressions of ministry needed for a global church. We continue to harm one another and stifle the work to which God calls us. At this point we do not know if this means forming separate denominations or organizing separate expressions of Methodism with a core of shared ministry. Bishop David Bard said in his Michigan annual conference recap, "We need new space, new birth, new creation. We need space for healing. We need space for fresh winds of God's Spirit to blow."

We'll have some conversation about this Sunday, June 23, after morning worship, beginning around 11 AM, led by people from our congregation present at annual conference. One of the tasks in our ministry plan is to deepen our capacity to discuss deep and difficult topics gracefully and thoughtfully. It is obvious we will have multiple opportunities to work on this over the next several months.

I/we do not yet know all the twists and turns of our journey, what we will look like in the next few years. But this I do trust and believe: God has something wonderful in store...God is NOT finished with us yet! Jeremiah 29:11 says, "'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Sisters and Brothers, may we step forward in hope and with expectation.

-Pastor Joy



Chelsea First United Methodist Church

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Vital Church Ministry Team Updates

Spiritual Formation Team

The Spiritual Formation Team (SFT) has completed its work and will present its recommendations to the Administrative Council this month. In the winter and spring of 2019, we reviewed the children's and youth discipleship plans and gave input about these plans to Michelle King and Jeanne Franks. We also drafted a comprehensive adult discipleship plan, an adult education curriculum, and a plan for forming small groups.

We have full-time staff administrative support for our children's and youth programs. However, our church will need some highly committed persons to help manage our new adult discipleship programs on an ongoing basis. Identifying and supporting these leaders constitute the essential next steps we will propose to the Administrative Council.

The work of the Spiritual Formation Team officially ends with the presentation of its recommendations to the Administrative Council, but the members agreed to meet one more time in October to assess the status of the team's proposals.

Outreach Missions Team

After meeting with leaders from many different service organizations in Chelsea, the Outreach and Mission Team (OMT) compiled a list of six broad categories of needs in our community. We took these lists of needs to three venues - a Town Hall, a youth group meeting, and a Grams Hall coffee hour - and asked that the people there communicate their passion, interest, and capacity to work on these local needs by voting with six sticky dots. Here are the results of the aggregated votes:

- Youth Mental Health: 124
- Concrete Needs (Food, Clothing, Affordable Housing, etc.): 83
- Loneliness and Isolation: 73
- Citizenship and Community Service: 40
- Support for Needs of Seniors: 26
- Community Health and Wellness: 13



Now that our assessment phase is complete, the Outreach and Mission Team will move on to mobilization and planning to position our church to help address the needs identified.

Worship Design Team

Updates from the Worship Design Team (WDT):

- Debriefed site visits to [Chelsea Main Street Church](#) and [2/42](#) in Ann Arbor, noting strong welcome and differences in style of those services and ours
- Discussed attributes of top [Mosaic](#) demographic groups within a 10 mile radius of CFUMC; noted that church membership more closely aligns with top demographic groups within a 5 mile radius of CFUMC
- Scheduled video conference with our consultant Cathy Townley, to take place at June 2 meeting

First Impressions Team

The First Impressions Team is continuing the work in four of our focus areas, which include:

The Lobby Re-configuration and Welcome Center committee. Teresa Steklac has been leading a committee to create a more welcoming space in the lobby area. The committee has made several recommendations, including adding an electric sign board for announcements, updating some lighting, and de-cluttering some of the furniture. Rob Long is working with our church “Fix-It-Guys” to build a portable reception center.

The CFUMC Ambassadors. This committee will be comprised of church members “ambassadors,” who would be responsible for greeting guests and others during coffee hour, as well as providing follow up connections with guests. Julie Deppner will be developing this committee and looking for church members to serve as our church Ambassadors. More details for the Ambassador program will be provided next month, after the FIT meeting in June.

Exterior/Interior Signage Committee. This committee is working with outside agencies to obtain pricing and input on improving our exterior and interior signage in and around the church building. Church staff members, Trustees and members of the FIT and CT (Communications Team) will serve on this committee. The Mystery Guests reported having a difficult time identifying the main entrance of the church, the church itself, parking, and interior directions to the sanctuary, social areas, classrooms, etc.

New Protocols for Greeters and Ushers - The FIT is working on new protocols and training for Greeters and Ushers when assisting guests. These new processes will be implemented after moving forward with the Lobby Design/Welcome Center and Ambassador work.

Announcements

Annual Conference Recap

Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 am

(after 9:30 am worship service)

Come and participate in a conversation with those from our church present at the Michigan Annual Conference Session

For more CFUMC VCM Resources, and to access our full VCI Consultation Report, please be sure to visit the website:

<http://www.chelseaumc.org/about-us/vital-church-ministry/index.html>

If you have questions for the VCM Teams, please contact: **info@chelseaumc.org**